



# **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WEEKLY UPDATE FOR THE WEEK OF April 27, 2009**

## **Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Career Cluster**

### **State FFA Convention REVIEW**

Over 1,400 attended the 79<sup>th</sup> State FFA Convention at Montana ExpoPark in Great Falls last week. Highlights included:

New State Officer team announced:

President: Sarah Ralls, Stevensville  
1<sup>st</sup> VP: Karli Clark, Choteau  
2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Richie Farrar, Missoula  
Secretary: Karissa Floerchinger, Cascade  
Treasurer: Ethan Schaff, Sidney  
Reporter: Ryan Mohr, Park City  
Sentinel: David Ratzburg, Conrad  
Parliamentarian: Nicole Willmore, Roy

Star Greenhand: Amy Hager, Shields Valley FFA  
Star Farmer: Greg Goggins, Shepherd FFA  
Star in Agribusiness: Logan Kotar, Hysham FFA  
Star in Agricultural Placement: Kate Hall, Park FFA  
Star in Agriscience: Karissa Floerchinger, Cascade FFA  
Star Chapter: Shields Valley FFA



**2009-10 State FFA Officer Team:** (l-r) Richie Farrar, Nicole Willmore, Ryan Mohr, Karli Clark, Karissa Floerchinger, Sarah Ralls, David Ratzburg, & Ethan Schaff.

Respectfully submitted,

**Bill Jimmerson**

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## **Business, Management and Information Systems Cluster**

### **DECA State Conference REVIEW**

Nearly 300 students gathered at the Red Lion Colonial Inn in Helena February 22-24, 2009 for their annual Montana DECA Career Development Conference. **DECA**des was the theme this year with the tagline, "Montana DECA – Still Groovy". Students enjoyed 50's, 60's, 70's, and 80's décor throughout the weekend, while the Quiz Bowl and dance were among the highlights. Nearly 130 event winners will represent Montana at the International Career Development Conference at the end of April in Anaheim, California.

Community members and Montana businesses played a tremendous role in the success of the state conference. More than 80 business professionals from around the state served as judges for the competitive events. In addition, Montana DECA has received more than \$12,000 from Montana business and educational institutions as part of our corporate sponsorship and education partnership programs.

#### **Appointed as our new 2009-2010 DECA state officers are as follows:**

Taylor Cummings - Belt High School; Nikole Drummond – Bozeman High School  
Aaron Roberts – CMR High School, Great Falls; Annie Schmeltzer – Capital High School, Helena  
Josh Reed – Sentinel High School, Missoula; Josh Mueller – Sentinel High School, Missoula

### **Business Professionals of America State Conference REVIEW**

The Montana BPA State Leadership Conference was held March 8-10 at the Hampton Inn Convention Center, Flathead Valley Community College and the Flathead Fairgrounds Expo Building in Kalispell. More than 1,100 students gathered to "Don't Let Your Future be a MYSTERY" at the mystery-theme of the lost torches event. For the second year in a row, our Post-Secondary Division was also in attendance. They competed in separate events from our secondary students and will also attend the national conference. Over two days, students tested their knowledge and expertise in business and technological skills, public speaking, marketing, management, and entrepreneurship. Finalists will compete at the national conference this May in Dallas, Texas. The state conference also included an energetic keynote address from Jeff Thompson, a local Kalispell coach, and students attended several workshops on topics ranging from achieving those dreams with goal setting to playing Guitar Hero or Rock Band and attending the FVCC Black Box Theatre of Grease. Once again, local BPA chapters donated over \$5,200 to Montana Special Olympics as their state wide community service project.

#### **Elected as our new 2009-2010 state officers are as follows:**

President: Lane Nordlund, Fergus High School; State Vice President: Logan Smith, Fergus High School  
State Secretary: Sara Lawson, Melstone High School; State Membership Director: Tommy Flanagan, Absarokee High School; State Public Relations Director: Derek Livermont, Forsyth High School; State Communications Director: Quincy Linhart, Hobson High School

Submitted on behalf of both student organizations,

#### **Diana Fiedler**

Perkins Accountability Specialist

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## **Health Sciences Career Cluster**

### **Health Sciences Technology Education Update**

The Health Science Pathway is offering a summer professional development workshop July 7, 8, and 9th at the Great Falls College of Technology for secondary and post-secondary instructors. There is no charge to participate PLUS your travel, meals and lodging will be reimbursed! Secondary science teachers are welcome, but will need to pay their own transportation, lodging and meals.

We have an exciting three days planned...Anatomy in Clay trainers will work with us for two days conducting hands-on training. We will be discussing multiple intelligences and teaching methods for all learning styles.

In addition, we will discuss interdisciplinary curriculum, non-traditional student enrollment, national skills assessments and strategic planning for continued program improvement based on teacher needs.

I look forward to seeing all of you this summer!

***\*\*\*For those of you attending the HOSA National Leadership Conference, the deadline is May 1st to get your registration information to me.***

In health,

**Renee Harris**

Health Sciences Education Specialist

HOSA State Advisor

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## **Family and Consumer Sciences Education Human Services & Resources Career Cluster**

On March 27, 2009, five FCS educators from around Montana met to take part in a Focus Group on Professional Development for the Human Services Career Cluster which was coordinated by the Office of Public Instruction, the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education, and the Tech Prep consortium. This focus group discussed many different ideas on how to move professional development from independent trainings to a community of practice model involving on-going education opportunities. The coordinators are currently working on condensing the information and ideas gained from the meeting to develop a plan to produce professional development for both secondary and post-secondary educators in Family & Consumer Sciences and Human Services.

### **FCCLA State Conference REVIEW**

The Montana FCCLA State Leadership Conference was held on March 19-21, 2009 in Billings. The theme was "Save the Day - Unleash Your Powers with FCCLA." 936 students, advisors and chaperones attended the three-day conference. During the conference, students had opportunities to explore careers, participate in leadership training and compete in events. Students were awarded 130 bronze medals, 109 silver medals and 211 gold medals. About 100 Montana delegates (students and adults) will be attending the National Leadership Conference from July 12 - 16 in Nashville, TN "Beyond the Label" to compete in STAR Events, attend leadership training, and participate as evaluators.

Respectfully submitted,

**Megan A. Anderson**

Family & Consumer Sciences Education Specialist

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## **Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems Cluster**

The Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems cluster meeting scheduled for April 14, 2009, was cancelled and re-scheduled for May 5.

### **SkillsUSA State Conference REVIEW**

On April 6, 2009, 435 students and advisors, and over 200 judges and staff inundated the campus of MSU-Northern for the 38th Annual Montana SkillsUSA State Leadership & Skills Conference.

Students competed in 33 different contests for medals, prizes and the opportunity to receive scholarships totally over \$130,000. More than 40 vendors donated items were awarded to the medal winners. First place winners also received the opportunity to attend the 45th annual SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference to be held in Kansas City, Missouri on June 21-26, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

**Don Michalsky**

Industrial, Manufacturing & Engineering Systems

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